

Message Text

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12

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00

SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 OMB-01 SAB-01 SAM-01 OPR-02

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O R 200927Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7780

AMEMBASSY ATHENS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 15401

DELIVER TO NEA/ARN, DRAPER, AT OPENING OF BUSINESS

JIDDA FOR ASST SECRETARY ATHERTON

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PINT, LE

SUBJECT: 0900 LEBANON REPORT

1. THERR WAS RELATIVELY HEAVY FIRING IN BEIRUT, PRINCIPALLY SHIYAH AND AIN EL-RUMANNEH AREAS UNTIL ABOUT MIDNIGHT LAST NIGHT. THERE WAS ALSO A TRE-MENDOUS EXPLOSION FOLLOWED BY HEAVY AUTOMATIC WEAPONS FIRE NEAR THE KUWAITI EMBASSY WHICH WE HAVE BEEN INFORMED CONSTITUTE PFLP/GC ATTACK (AND DEFENSE) AGAINST ALGERIAN CHANCELLERY. ALSO SPORADIC MORTARING AND AUTOMATIC WEAPONS FIRE IN HADATH AS A RESULT OF BAABDA/SEBNAY SITUATION. THIS MORNING, HOWEVER, THINGS WERE RELATIVELY QUIET AND THERE WAS A MODICUM OF TRAFFIC INTO AND IN CERTAIN PARTS OF THE CITY. PORT AREAS PLACE DES CANON AND HOTEL AREA, HOWEVER, DID NOT HAVE A SINGLE MOVING THING. ARMY VERY MUCH IN EVIDENCE AS WAS PHALANGE IN ASHRAFIYEH.

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2. BIG NEWS TODAY, OF COURSE, IS SHIHABI'S IMPROMPTU

APPEARANCE BEIRUT SCENE YESTERDAY. HE WAS RECEIVED BY FRANGIE, GEMAYEL, CHAMOUN, KARAME, SAEB SALAM, YAFI, MUSA AS SADR AND 'ARAFAT. IT IS GENERALLY ASSUMED HE IS PREPARING A KHADDAM VISIT BUT WE BELIEVE KHADDAM WILL NOT RPT NOT REAPPEAR IN BEIRUT UNLESS THE DECK IS WELL AND CAREFULLY STACKED IN HIS FAVOR.

3. PRESS REPORTS SAUDI KING KHALED VISITING DAMASCUS DEC 25 AFTER SPENDING TWO DAYS OFFICIAL VISIT IN JORDAN. THIS OBVIOUSLY WILL WHET LOCAL APPETITES IN THAT GHASSAN TUEINI YESTERDAY WENT OUT OF HIS WAY TO CONTACT ME AND BUY ME LUNCH. PURPOSE OF HIS GENORISITY WAS TO TWIST MY ARM PRETTY HARD TO HAVE SAUDI DEPUTY PRIMIN PRINCE FAHD BE THE MEDIATOR. ACCORDING TO TUEINI, FAHD SHOULD ARRIVE UNANNOUNCED AS DID SHIHABI AND LEBANESE OF ALL COLORATION WOULD PROSTRATE THEMSELVES BEFORE HIS PURSE AND HIS LEADERSHIP ROLE IN THE ARAB WORLD. ACCORDING TO TUEINI, FAHD WAS THE ONE MAN IN THE WORLD WHO COULD TELL FRANGIE TO RESIGN AND TO CONVINCE JUMBLATT TO LAY DOWN WITH THE PHALANGE. I EXPRESSED SOME DOUBT THAT WE WOULD WISH TO GET IN FRONT OF THE LEBANESE ON THIS QUESTION AND ASKED WHAT TUEINI PROPOSED THE LEBANESE DO. VIGOUROUSLY HE REPLIED NOTHING AND THAT THE WHOLE OBJECTIVE OF HIS SUGGESTION WOULD BE DESTROYED WERE A LEBANESE TO GET OUT IN FRONT. I TOLD TUEINI I WOULD PASS THIS ON TO MY BETTERS AND ELDERS.

4. BEKAA QUIET BUT ZGHORTRIOTES ARE STILL HEAVILY ENGAGED IN THE TRIPOLI AREA. WHILE AN UNEASY CALM PREVAILS BEIRUT, NO ONE REALLY BELIEVES IT.

5. RAYMOND EDDE'S MEETING WITH SISCO FRONT-PAGED BY "L'ORIENT LE JOUR".
GODLEY

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